

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A silica glass crucible used for pulling silicon single crystal, comprising:

a silica glass crucible having a wall part, an open diameter, an inner surface, and an outer surface; and

a graphite susceptor adhered to the outer surface of the silica glass crucible;

wherein at least an outer surface of the wall part of the crucible is covered with fine grooves having a length of from 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , a width of from 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$  and a depth of from more than 3  $\mu\text{m}$  to less than 30  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and

wherein a sliding frictional coefficient of the outer surface of the crucible to the graphite susceptor at 1500°C is more than 0.6, and

wherein a number of projections having a height of 0.1 mm or more is an average of less than 5 /  $\text{mm}^2$  per unit area on the outer surface of the crucible.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The silica glass crucible according to Claim 1, wherein the fine grooves exist on more than 10 % of the whole outer surface of the crucible.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): The silica glass crucible according to Claim 1, wherein the outer surface of the crucible is covered with the fine grooves by carrying out a sand-blast treatment and a hydrofluoric acid etching on the outer surface.

Claims 5-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A silica glass crucible used for pulling silicon single crystal, comprising:

a silica glass crucible having a wall part, an open diameter, an inner surface, and an outer surface; and

a graphite susceptor adhered to the outer surface of the silica glass crucible;

wherein at least an outer surface of the wall part of the crucible is covered with fine grooves having a length of from 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , a width of from 10  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30  $\mu\text{m}$  and a depth of from more than 3  $\mu\text{m}$  to less than 30  $\mu\text{m}$ , and

the fine grooves exist on more than 10 % of the whole outer surface of the crucible, and

a sliding frictional coefficient of the outer surface of the crucible to the graphite susceptor at 1500°C is more than 0.6, and

wherein the outer surface of the crucible has projections having a height of 0.1 mm or more and the number of projections is an average of less than 5 /  $\text{mm}^2$  per unit area on the outer surface of the crucible.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A process for forming fine grooves on the surface of a wall part of silica glass crucible used for pulling silicon single crystal, comprising carrying out a sand-blast treatment and a hydrofluoric acid etching on the said surface.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A process for forming fine grooves according to Claim 8, wherein fine grooves have a length of less than 200  $\mu\text{m}$ , a width of less than 30  $\mu\text{m}$  and a depth of from more than 3  $\mu\text{m}$  to less than 30  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A process for forming fine grooves according to Claim 8, wherein the sand-blast treatment is the polishing method by spraying the hard particles having the higher hardness than that of the silica glass, with high pressure gas.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A process for forming fine grooves according to Claim 10, wherein the hard particles are the crystalline quartz particles.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The silica glass crucible according to Claim 1, wherein the fine grooves have a depth of from more than 3  $\mu\text{m}$  to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The silica glass crucible according to Claim 1, wherein the fine grooves have a length of 10 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claims 14-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The silica glass crucible according to Claim 7, wherein the fine grooves have a depth of from more than 3  $\mu\text{m}$  to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The silica glass crucible according to Claim 7, wherein the fine grooves have a length of 10 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claims 20-25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The silica glass crucible according to Claim 1, wherein the fine grooves are present only on the outer surface of the crucible.

Claim 27 (Canceled).

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The silica glass crucible according to Claim 7, wherein the fine grooves are present only on the outer surface of the crucible.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The silica glass crucible according to Claim 1, wherein the fine grooves exist on more than 50% of the whole outer surface of the crucible.

Claim 30 (Canceled).

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): the silica glass crucible according to Claim 7, wherein the fine grooves exist on more than 50% of the whole outer surface of the crucible.